



File Code: 1950

Date: May 19, 2011

Dear Interested Party:

In February I signed a Record of Decision for the Bozeman Municipal Watershed Project and released a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS). Based on input from others in the Forest Service, I felt it was best to offer a more formal period for the public to comment on the SEIS before finalizing my decision. I have chosen to withdraw the February 2011 Record of Decision for this project in order to offer an additional 45 day opportunity for public review and comment.

Because of the importance of this project to the City of Bozeman, the community and the Gallatin National Forest, we are taking the most conservative approach to the review of the SEIS and ultimately issuing a final decision. Based on your input, I will promptly issue a decision following the review of public comments. This new decision will be subject to appeal. The 45 day comment period will begin on the date that notification is published in the Federal Register.

I want to thank the community for your patience as we work through the administrative details that will ultimately allow for successful implementation of this project. We expect that project implementation will still begin in 2011. The Forest and the Bozeman Ranger District will continue to work with the community and local land owners to determine how best to implement this project and manage its impacts on neighbors and Forest users. Thank you for your contributions to that effort.

The Supplemental EIS is limited to a compilation of supplemental analysis for elk and other big game species, fisheries, soils, water quality, climate change, sensitive species and Management Indicator species with updates to the sensitive plant, weeds, roadless analyses and consideration of cumulative effects from reasonably foreseeable activities in the vicinity of Bozeman Creek. The supplemental analysis discloses reduced impacts to these resources compared to the analysis in the FEIS. The additional data and analysis affirms conclusions and alternative development previously disclosed in the FEIS.

The SEIS is available on line at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin> on the Projects and Plans page. To request a paper of CD copy, contact the Bozeman Ranger District at (406) 522-2520 or by mail at Bozeman Ranger District, 3710 Fallon St. Suite C, Bozeman MT 59718. Additional information is available from the Project Leader, Teri Seth, or District Ranger, Lisa Stoeffler.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mary C. Erickson
MARY C. ERICKSON
Forest Supervisor

cc: Teri Seth
Ray G Smith
Steve Christiansen

